



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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United States Department of Agriculture

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A special "THANK YOU" goes to New England producers and agri-businesses who have helped us by completing surveys via mail, telephone, or personal interviews. This issue contains the results of monthly and quarterly surveys.

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POTATOES: Maine's 2004 potato production is estimated at 19.2 million cwt (hundredweight), 13 percent above 2003 production and the largest crop harvested in the state since 1996. Record high yields offset a 3,500 acre decline in harvested acreage. The December 1 forecast placed acres harvested at 62,000 acres; yields averaged 310 cwt per acre. Crop growth was excellent through mid-August with timely rains and sun promoting superior growth until heavy rains hit. This caused severe flooding in many fields in the St. John Valley when the river overflowed its banks and forced growers to abandon fields. An estimated 1,500 acres were left unharvested in 2004 in the state. Prolonged rains interrupted needed spray schedules, increased the incidence of disease, and resulted in numerous tuber quality problems. Extremely dry conditions during September accelerated the pace of crop harvest. Growers had 75 percent of the crop dug by October 3, well ahead of the five-year average of 60 percent.

Results from the 2004 Potato Objective Yield (POY) Survey placed the average number of hills per acre for all potato varieties planted in Maine at 11,969 hills per acre, up 240 hills per acre from the 11,729 hills per acre planted in 2003. On average, growers harvested 9.3 tubers per hill in 2004, compared with the 8.9 tubers per hill average in 2003. Tuber quality was improved from a year ago, with the percentage of tubers grading out as US #1 (potatoes which meet the requirements for US #1, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, AMS) above 2003 across all types. Further results from the 2004 Objective Yield survey will be published on January 12, 2005 in the Maine Annual Potato Size and Grade Report.

Potato farmers in **Massachusetts** and **Rhode Island** also enjoyed excellent growing and harvesting conditions during the 2004 growing season. Massachusetts growers harvested 2,500 acres with yields surpassing all records, averaging 320 cwt per acre. Rhode Island potato farmers harvested 500 acres and yields averaged 350 cwt per acre, also establishing record yields in the state.

POTATO STOCKS: Maine potato stocks on hand for December 1, 2004 totaled 15.0 million cwt, 11 percent above 2003's December 1 holdings. Disappearance to December 1 totaled 4.2 million cwt, above the disappearance a year earlier due to excessive losses from potatoes breaking down in storage in 2004. Storage accounted for 78 percent of Maine's total production, on target with the previous five-year average of 78 percent. Of the Maine stocks on hand December 1, 49 percent were russets, 45 percent were round white varieties, three percent were red varieties, and three percent were long whites.

The 15 major potato states held 272 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2004, up one percent from last year and three percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 67 percent of the 2004 fall storage states' production, one percentage point above last year. Disappearance of 132 million cwt of potatoes is down three percent from last year and 8 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 16.8 million cwt so far this season, is up 12 percent from last year and eight percent above the same date in 2002. Processors in the nine major states used 70.7 million cwt of potatoes this season, down two percent from a year ago and eight percent below two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 13.4 million cwt of the total processing, down six percent from last year and 15 percent below the same date in 2002.

MILK PRODUCTION: Milk production in Vermont totaled 204 million pounds for November 2004, down one percent from November 2003. There were an estimated 145,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during November 2004, unchanged from the previous month and a decrease of 1,000 head from the previous year. Milk production per cow averaged 1,410 pounds, a decrease of five pounds per cow from November 2003.

This is a monthly summary of New England agricultural statistics taken from nationwide reports issued by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

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National reports can be ordered by calling 1-800-999-6779.

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FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2003 - 2004 ^{1/}

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 Cwt	
Maine	66.0	63.5	65.5	62.0	260	310	17,030	19,220
Massachusetts	3.0	2.6	2.7	2.5	265	320	716	800
Rhode Island	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	285	350	171	175
United Fall Crop	1,106.0	1,043.7	1,090.9	1,027.0	376	399	410,588	409,823

SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m., December 15, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, December 1, 2003 - 2004 ^{1/}

State	2003 Crop			2004 Crop		
	Production	Stocks December 1, 2003	Stocks as Percentage of Production	Production	Stocks December 1, 2004	Stocks as Percentage of Production
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt		Percent
California	3,528	2,700	77	3,876	3,200	83
Colorado	23,652	17,500	74	23,148	17,200	74
Idaho	123,180	86,000	70	131,970	93,500	71
Maine	17,030	13,500	79	19,220	15,000	78
Michigan	15,015	9,200	61	13,650	8,600	63
Minnesota	22,330	14,000	63	18,920	13,000	69
Montana	3,339	3,100	93	3,551	3,400	96
Nebraska	9,744	6,500	67	8,938	5,800	65
New York	6,510	2,700	41	5,184	2,900	56
North Dakota	27,440	19,400	71	26,765	19,600	73
Ohio	1,097	300	27	1,080	200	19
Oregon	20,991	18,000	86	19,775	17,000	86
Pennsylvania	3,375	1,900	56	2,530	1,200	47
Washington	93,150	51,000	55	93,810	50,000	53
Wisconsin	32,800	22,100	67	30,710	21,000	68
15 States	403,181	267,900	66	403,127	271,600	67

^{1/} Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2004 totaled 26.4 million cwt.SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m. December 15, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.FALL POTATOES: Number of Hills by Type, Seven Objective Yield States, 2003-2004 ^{1/2/}

State	Crop Year	Reds		Whites ^{3/}		Russets	
		Number of Samples	Average Number Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Average Number Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Average Number Hills per Acre
ID	2003	4	14,819	9	12,621	268	12,480
	2004	4	16,372	13	12,747	259	12,628
ME	2003	4	13,060	84	13,235	66	9,731
	2004	6	12,598	77	13,495	62	10,012
MN	2003	47	13,364	13	11,642	81	11,458
	2004	34	13,649	18	11,700	82	12,601
ND	2003	23	10,653	50	10,055	64	11,106
	2004	19	11,435	58	11,134	68	12,007
OR	2003			32	13,267	75	13,928
	2004	3	9,585	19	14,917	79	13,995
WA	2003	10	15,489	29	14,570	133	14,931
	2004	6	17,155	26	16,739	146	15,306
WI	2003	9	15,404	49	14,218	63	12,091
	2004	11	13,513	41	14,554	68	12,559

^{1/} Based on row measurements and counts in potato fields selected for objective yield samples.^{2/} Missing data represents insufficient number of samples.^{3/} Includes long white and round white varieties.SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m. December 15, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Weight within Grade, ^{1/} by Type, 2000 - 2004

Grade	Round Whites					Long Whites					Russets				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
	Percent														
United States No. 1 ^{2/}	77	83	83	77	85	62	61	73	62	69	68	75	77	61	70
United States No. 2 ^{3/}	12	10	11	11	8	20	20	19	19	11	18	15	16	22	13
Culls ^{4/}	11	7	6	12	7	18	19	8	19	20	14	10	7	17	17

^{1/} Percent of net yield - adjusted for field loss.

^{2/} Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #1, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service. (2 inch minimum)

^{3/} Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service. (1 1/2 inch minimum)

^{4/} Potatoes not meeting the requirements for US #1 or US #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.

SOURCE: **Potato Stocks**, 3:00 p.m. December 15, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 1999 - 2004 Crop Years

Crop Year	Prices Received ^{1/} by Farmers for Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average												Market Year Average
	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June		
	Dollars per Cwt												
1999	5.80	5.30	5.45	6.35	6.45	6.30	6.35	6.40	6.80	6.60	6.75	6.35	
2000	5.80	5.45	5.50	5.55	5.60	5.50	5.90	6.20	6.80	7.30	7.00	6.15	
2001	6.20	5.70	6.05	6.65	7.50	7.75	8.30	8.65	9.45	8.05	7.80	7.65	
2002	5.75	5.45	5.60	6.65	6.95	7.10	7.10	7.45	8.10	8.15	7.40	7.05	
2003	6.15	5.25	5.45	5.90	5.75	5.85	5.70	6.10	6.30	6.70	6.90	6.05	
2004 ^{2/}	5.95	5.15	5.70	5.75									

^{1/} Average price of potatoes sold for fresh market, processing, seed, and feed.

^{2/} Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.

SOURCE: **Agricultural Prices**, 3:00 p.m., November 29, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, November 2004 with Comparisons

State	Milk Cows ^{1/}			Production per Cow			Production		
	Nov 2003	Oct 2004	Nov 2004	Nov 2003	Oct 2004	Nov 2004	Nov 2003	Oct 2004	Nov 2004
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	146	145	145	1,415	1,455	1,410	207	211	204
New York	660	650	646	1,410	1,470	1,410	931	956	911
Pennsylvania	560	563	563	1,420	1,465	1,420	795	825	799
United States ^{2/}	7,721	7,765	7,765	1,517	1,578	1,526	11,709	12,254	11,846

^{1/} Average number for the month, including dry cows.

^{2/} United States includes only 20 major states: Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

SOURCE: **Milk Production**, 3:00 p.m., December 17, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

VERMONT MILK: Prices Received, 1999 - 2004

Year	Prices Received ^{1/} by Farmers for Milk Sold												Annual Average
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
	Dollars per Cwt												
1999	18.20	16.60	16.50	13.90	13.90	14.10	14.50	14.90	16.20	16.30	16.30	13.90	15.40
2000	13.40	13.40	13.50	13.40	13.50	13.80	13.50	13.80	14.00	14.00	14.30	14.60	13.80
2001	13.70	14.30	15.00	15.40	16.20	16.80	17.00	17.30	17.90	16.40	15.80	14.10	15.80
2002	14.20	13.80	13.30	13.10	12.70	12.10	11.60	11.70	12.00	12.50	12.50	12.40	12.70
2003	12.30	11.90	11.50	11.40	11.50	11.50	12.10	13.40	15.00	15.80	15.50	14.80	13.00
2004 ^{2/}	13.90	14.20	15.60	17.50	19.70	19.50	17.40	15.40	16.00	16.50	16.60		^{3/}

^{1/} Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

^{2/} Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.

^{3/} 2004 annual average price will be available in May 2005.

SOURCE: **Agricultural Prices**, 3:00 p.m., November 30, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: New England Production, October 2004 with Comparisons

PRODUCT	October 2003	September 2004	October 2004	October 2004 as Percent of:	
				October 2003	September 2004
	1,000 Pounds			Percent	
Butter	3,479	2,633	1,590	46	60
American Type Cheese ^{1/}	6,471	4,986	5,351	83	107
Mozzarella Cheese	5,169	5,218	4,654	90	89
Other Italian Cheese ^{2/}	1,042	1,680	666	64	40
Cottage Cheese ^{3/}	632	695	518	82	75
	1,000 Gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard	8,422	6,526	8,170	97	125
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	591	628	1,038	176	165
Milk Sherbet, Hard	138	289	268	194	93

^{1/} American Type Cheese includes cheddar, Colby, Monterey and Jack.

^{2/} Includes all Italian cheese except Mozzarella.

^{3/} Creamed and low fat.

SOURCE of NATIONAL PRODUCTION: *Dairy Products*, 3:00 p.m., December 4, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, November 2003 - 2004

State	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers ^{1/}		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ^{1/}		Egg Production from All Layers ^{1/}	
	November 2003	November 2004	November 2003	November 2004	November 2003	November 2004	November 2003	November 2004
	1,000 Birds				Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,833	2,890	2,892	2,938	2,317	2,280	65	69
Maine	4,109	2,679	4,158	2,732	2,261	2,086	101	62
United States	274,821	279,691	338,283	343,477	2,166	2,170	7,439	7,639

^{1/} Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.

SOURCE: *Chickens and Eggs*, 3:00 p.m., December 21, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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